



NEW LIFE BIBLE-PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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“For the Word of God and for the testimony of Jesus Christ” (Rev 1:9)

Vol. 26 No. 20

LORD’S DAY 15 MAY 2022

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Morning Service – 11am

Afternoon Service – 3pm

Prelude

The Lord Is in His Holy Temple

Call to Worship

Psalm 71:1, 22-23

Psalm 89:1-2 & 5

Opening Prayer

Pr Mok Chee Cheong

Pr Mok Chee Cheong

Opening Hymn *

RHC 34 – “Crown Him With Many Crowns”

RHC 47 – “Great is Thy Faithfulness”

Responsive Reading

Psalm 4

Second Hymn *

Psalm 4 verses 1-5
(to the tune of RHC 344 Crimond)

Scriptural Text

2 Peter 1:1-4

Proverbs 18:10

Pastoral Prayer

Pr Mok Chee Cheong

Pr Mok Chee Cheong

Sermon Message

Faith, Eternal Life and Godliness

The Refuge of The Christian

Closing Hymn *

Insert – “Jesus, My Strength, My Hope”

RHC 368 – “From Every Stormy Wind That Blows”

Benediction/3-Fold Amen *

Pr Mok Chee Cheong

Pr Mok Chee Cheong

Postlude

The Lord Bless You

* **Congregation Stands**

THE LORD IS IN HIS HOLY TEMPLE

The Lord is in His holy temple,
The Lord is in His holy temple:
Let all the earth keep silence,
Let all the earth keep silence before Him -
Keep silence, keep silence before Him. Amen.

THE LORD BLESS YOU

The Lord bless you and keep you;
The Lord lift His countenance upon you,
and give you peace, and give you peace;
The Lord make His face to shine upon you,
And be gracious unto you, be gracious,
The Lord be gracious, gracious unto you. Amen.

SHORTER CATECHISM QUESTION 8

Q: How doth God execute his decrees?

A: God executeth his decrees in the works of creation and providence.

Comments:

We have been told what God *is*; we now begin to learn what he *has done*. We are here told that he created all things, and still sustains them, and that in creation and providence we see God executing his own decrees.

Scriptural Reference:

Revelation 4:11, Daniel 4:35

GODLY WOMEN WHO MADE A DIFFERENCE

The Word of God recorded accounts of godly women who played no small part in the ministry of the gospel and in the edification of saints in the church. These heroines of faith are fine examples for our ladies today to emulate and follow as a pattern of godliness, piety, Christian zeal and hospitality. We shall consider four women (not meant to be exhaustive) in the New Testament who played significant roles in the life and ministry of the early church during the apostolic period.

1. Lydia, one who helped start the first church in Europe (Acts 16:1-15)

The Apostle Paul was constrained by a vision when a man of Macedonia appealed to him to come over and help them (Acts 16:9). He obeyed the prompting of the Holy Spirit and travelled from Troas to Neapolis and then to Philippi, which was the chief city of Macedonia at that time, a Roman colony and abode certain days there (Acts 16:12).

On the Sabbath day, he went to the city and spoke to them concerning the gospel. A certain lady by the name of Lydia, heard and believed and requested baptism (Acts 16:14,15). Not only her, which would have included children but her whole household was baptised. She was a businesswoman, a seller of purple (purple garment made from a special dye made in Thyatira). They became the 1st members of the church in Philippi, the first converts in Europe. Lydia's influence in the fledging congregation was significant. On the very day she was saved, she invited Paul and his companion to her home where they ministered to the Apostle with kind hospitality. Paul wrote the Epistle to Philippi 12 years later and that church became the first one in Macedonia to financially support his ministry (Phil 4:15-16). Undoubtedly, Lydia was involved in the ministry of giving and supporting the work of the gospel. Was not Jesus' ministry supported by ladies too in the persons of Susanna and Joanna? (Lk 8:3).

2. Phoebe, A steward of the church (Rom 16:1-2)

Phoebe was mentioned only once in the NT in Rom 16:1 & 2 — *"I commend unto you Phebe our sister, which is a servant of the church which is at Cenchrea: That ye receive her in the Lord, as becometh saints, and that ye assist her in whatsoever business she hath need of you: for she hath been a succourer of many, and of myself also."* She deserved special mention here for her sacrificial labour of love. She was from the church in Cenchrea, a seaport, 7 miles east of Corinth. Some believed that Phoebe would possibly be the courier of the letter to the Roman church which Paul wrote from Corinth. Paul commended her to the church and asked them to receive her and introduced her as a servant of the church. She is called a succourer of many, and of Paul himself. She was more than an occasional helper. She was a regular steward and a patron who was responsible and faithful for caring for the needy believers in the church in Cenchrea. Paul used the word 'diakonos' to describe her causing some to interpret that she possibly could have been a deaconess or had held some responsible position in the church. The church is in dire need of Phoebes today.

3. Priscilla (& Aquila), a supportive partner in the Lord's work (Rom 16:3-5).

In Rom 16:3-5, we were told of a couple named Aquila and Priscilla. The verses read *"Greet Priscilla and Aquila my helpers in Christ Jesus: Who have for my life laid down their own necks: unto whom not only I give thanks, but also all the churches of the Gentiles. Likewise greet the church that is in their house. Salute my wellbeloved Epaenetus, who is the firstfruits of Achaia unto Christ."* Priscilla and her husband, Aquila were Jewish converts and co-workers together with the Apostle Paul. They were involved in tent-making and in the propagation of the gospel. Paul met them on his 2nd missionary journey. They made an unusual contribution to the history of the early church. They risked their lives in the friendship with Paul and in protecting him. They were mentioned again by the Apostle Paul in 1 Cor 16:19 and 2 Tim 4:19. We do not know the exact circumstance but it is possible that while Paul was facing opposition in Ephesus, the couple helped him in such a way that endangered not just their business by their own lives (This is what we called friends in need).

In Rom 16:5, we were told that the church started in their house. They were willing to let the home to be used as a meeting place for the assembling of saints. What a privilege and sacrifice! Priscilla and Aquila also demonstrated good theological knowledge and tact in correcting Apollos, a mighty preacher who erred in point of doctrine and encouraged him in the right way (Acts 11:24-28). We desperately need godly couples with a God-fearing wife like Priscilla supporting the ministry all the way.

4. Lois & Eunice, the faithful mothers (2 Tim 1:5)

The son of a praying mother cannot be lost. That was the example of Augustine with his godly mother, Monica, and John and Charles with Susanna Wesley. In 2 Tim 1:5, Paul paid tribute to a mother and a grandmother. It reads, *"When I call to remembrance the unfeigned faith that is in thee, which dwelt first in thy grandmother Lois, and thy mother Eunice; and I am persuaded that in thee also."* Paul needed a good and reliable man to hold the fort in Ephesus and he found him in the person of Timothy. How did Timothy become that kind of person fit for the Master's use? The secret is the godly influence of his mother, Eunice and his grandmother, Lois. Timothy's introduction to the faith did not come from Paul. Both his mother and grandmother were believers who taught him the OT scriptures. In 2 Tim 3:15 we were told *"And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus."* He was raised up in an environment conducive for spiritual growth and godliness. Lois and Eunice were examples of mothers who in the midst of a pagan and unbelieving world were faithful to the Lord in teaching their son and grandson the scriptures. The Lord then brought this spiritual influence and fruition in Timothy's life through which these godly women were able to bring the Word to others through their own son and grandson. What a privilege!

Today, sadly, we have parents who are more concerned about their children's secular education, and mental development, than their spiritual health and well-being. Do we bring our children to Sunday School, to church and to be baptised in the Lord? Is there family prayer and devotion? Do we sing psalms and hymns (Col.3:16), read and study the scriptures with our children? Eunice and Lois are rarities today. O that we have godly mothers (and fathers) to bring up their children in the fear and admonition of the Lord! Amen.

- adapted and edited article written by Rev. Jack Sin, pastor of Sovereign Hope Bible Presbyterian Church, Singapore

WELCOME TO NEW LIFE B-P CHURCH LONDON

Our Lord's Day activities begins with the **Pre-Worship Prayer Meeting** at **10:15 am** followed by the **Worship Services** at **11.00 am and 3.00 pm**. Do invite your friends to come to Church.

NEWS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dear Worshippers, with the legal Covid restrictions lifted both Worship Services will be held in the Church Premises.

Please continue to use face coverings in the church out of consideration for all worshippers and as per government advice.

For those unable to attend Church in person, we will continue to stream our services online.

If you require the link to our online zoom services or have any queries, please call the church manse, or email us at [admin 'at' newlifebpc.org.uk](mailto:admin@newlifebpc.org.uk).

Tithes & Offerings – There will be an offering box at the entrance to the Church Sanctuary for you to place your offerings in.

Worship Service Collections – 08/05/22 - £432.00

**Church Maintenance Fund
Total:** £8,600.50

MEMORY VERSE

Last Week

"The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life; and he that winneth souls is wise."

Proverbs 11:30

This Week

"Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time: Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you."

1 Peter 5:6-7

Next Week

"The name of the LORD is a strong tower: the righteous runneth into it, and is safe."

Proverbs 18:10

Pre-cautions for Worship Services held at the church premises:

With the lifting of the legal Covid restrictions on 24th Feb 2022, we will be following the precautions listed below until further notice:

- No offering collection during the worship service. Offerings can still be made at the offering box when entering or exiting the church.
- Temperature measurements will still be taken for every worshipper and visitor. We must urge those who feel unwell with Covid symptoms not to come to services until tested.
- During worship services, please continue to sit with your own households.
- We strongly recommend face coverings to be worn in the church out of consideration for all worshippers and as per government advise. For young children under the age of 11, the use of face covering is optional. Please bring your own face covering.
- From 6th March onwards, access to non-essential areas of the church (e.g. the Fellowship Hall and kitchen) will be made available. Please bring your own lunch as Fellowship Lunch is still suspended. Drinks will be provided.

To join our online services or for more information, please visit the church website (www.newlifebpc.org.uk) or call the church manse (020 73280869).

With the Lord's blessing,

John Poh & Jonathan Kim,
Task Force Members